RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 9th March 1988/
19 Phalguna, 1909 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Monuments in Western Orissa

*201. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and other details of archaeological monuments in Western Orissa;

(b) what are the steps taken by Government during the last three years for the preservation of those monuments; and

(c) what is the amount spent on the maintenance of those monuments during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) The following monuments/sites located in Western Orissa are under Central protection:—

(1) Temples of Nilamadhav and Siddheswar at Gandharari

(2) Paschim Somnath and Kapilaswar temples at Boudh

(3) Vikarmkhol rock inscription at Vikramkhol

(4) Ancient site of Asurgarh fort at Asurgarh

(5) Chausatti Jogini Temple and other minor temples at Ranipur Jharial

(b) and (c) These monuments/sites are being periodically inspected by the officers of the Archaeological Survey of India and other staff for the assessment of their structural and other requirements so that necessary measures are taken. For day to day maintenance and upkeep Monument Attendants are posted at all these places. Besides, structural repairs of the Chausatti Jogini Temple at Ranipur-Jharial and chemical presevation of Nilamadhav and Siddheswar temples at Gandharari have been undertaken.

The expenditure incurred is given below:—

1984—85	Rs. 11,174/
1985—86	Rs. 20,193/
1986—87	Nil

These monuments/sites are in a good state of preservation.

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, archaeological remains are our precious heritage. Orissa has the largest number of such monuments but not all are taken care of by the Central Government. I understand from the answer given by the Minister that those temples which are more than 100 years old should be looked after by the Central Government and the rest by the State Government. Therefore, my question is, during the last five years, how many monuments which are 100 years old have been taken over by the Central Government for maintenance and has any detailed survey been made about the ancient monuments in Orissa? Has any excavation been made in this connection? If so, where and what are the details?

SHRI L. P. SHAHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question relates to Western Orissa. But nevertheless, there is the office of Superintending Archaeologist located in Orissa. It looks after the monuments in Orissa and Chattisgarh region of Madhya Pradesh. There are 67 monuments in Orissa which are under the care of Archaeological Survey of India and another 45 monuments in Chattisgarh which

are under the Archaeological Survey of India. The rest of the monuments are being looked after by the State Archaeological Department.

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Sir, my second supplementary is that theft of ancient statues is ruining our culture. I would like to know whether there is any All India Scheme to prevent smuggling of statues and if so, what are the details thereof.

SHRI L. P. SHAHI: Sir, although this does not come under the ambit of the question, if you permit Sir, I may submit that there was an Act which was passed in 1947 and which has recently been amended in 1972 that is Preservation of Antiquities Act. There is a particular definition given about the antiquities. After After that, we can take steps if any monument has been illegally removed from the country. But, Sir, they have removed some of the monuments before the passing of the Act. Some antiquities were removed before 1947 itself. So about that we cannot do anything. When we establish that it has been illegally removed, then only we can take recourse to law court and get it back.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Sir, in the reply about monuments, there is a mention of Vikramkhol rock inscriptions. I want to ask the hon. Minister how these inscriptions are protected because the visitors who come to see the inscriptions erase the words creating difficulties for those who decipher the inscriptions. For instance, I visited Mansara, which is in Pakistan now, before partition. There is the Crosty rock inscription. That was the only Crosty rock inscription in India before partition. This script goes from right to left and not left to right. There, certain words were erased. We pointed out that to the authorities. They protected the rock inscription and appointed a guardian there. I do not know what is the position now. What I want to ask the hon. Minister is, are these inscriptions properly protected from visitors who, out of fun, erase the words?

SHRI L. P. SHAHI: Yes. Now we have posted Monument Attendants at all these places. Two attendants in eight-hour duty are posted at Vikramkhol to safeguard the inscription from such visitors. But, if something has already been done earlier, for that, we are helpless.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there is a plan or scheme with him for systematically taking pictures of these inscriptions and monuments? My hon. friend Shri D. C. Prashant said that they are erased by the public. If pictures are taken and preserved, then we can know, at least after a hundred years from now, what the inscriptions were and decipher them at that time. If he has no such plan, would he consider such a plan?

SHRI L. P. SHAHI: Certainly we will consider.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a good suggestion.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): No. No. Sir, this is a continuous programme. The protection of inscriptions...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is talking about photographs being taken now.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Yes, taking photographs. There are hundreds of volumes containing photographs of inscriptions all over India. They have been deciphered and very great pandits have been working on them. They sometimes differ also and even the differences bring out books.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you can talk to him later.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: There is no problem. It is a continuous programme.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, I want to draw your attention to an area further west of Western Orissa. I had been to Jhansi very recently and Jhansi Fort is in a dilapidated condition, not being attended to. Similarly, in Gwalior, palaeolithic collections are there. The state of monuments there will bring tears from there eyes of the person visiting. In such places, what does the Ministry propose to do? One attendant will not do. He is callous. There is no arrangement for guides etc. I am drawing the attention of the Minister and seeking a reply for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking a question about M.P.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We will look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No 202.

B. Baruah Cancer Hospital at Guwahati

*202. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Assam Government to develop the B. Baruah Cancer Hospital at Guwahati into a full-fledged cancer institute; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Assam had sent a proposal in November, 1987 regarding Dr. B. B. Cancer Institute at Guwahati which, inter alia, included the following:

—Strengthening of treatment and diagnostic facilities for cancer by replacement of equipment.

—Provision of surgical facilities.

—Increasing the bed-strength from 50 to 250.

Dr. B. B. Cancer Institute at Guwahati was recognised as a Regional Cancer Centre in 1980 and is being assisted in a phased manner by the Government of India. During the Sixth Plan (1975—80), Rs. 50.96 lakhs was provided for purchase of equipment. During the first three years of the 7th Five Year Plan (1985—88) Rs. 42 lakhs have been released to this Institution. The Institute is also receiving assistance from the Government of Assam and the North Eastern Council which has given a construction grant of Rs. 35 lakhs for the new radio-therapy block.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: The number of cancer patients is very high in Assam. The number of patients that turn up for treatment at Dr. B. B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati, is more than a thousand every month. Although it is declared a Regional Cancer Institute, it has not yet been fully modernised and the amount of Rs. 50 lakhs just now mentioned by the Minister for modernisation is very nominal. In the circumstances for better treatment people are moving to Madras or Bombay. In order to help the people of this cancer infested State Government should equip this Dr. B. B. Cancer Institute with the most modern surgical and radiotherapic devices. I want to know whether the Government propose to train the doctors abroad in treating cancer patients with chemotherapy and whether the Government agrees to grant sufficient foreign exchange for the purpose.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, may I inform the honourable Member, I have just been informed this morning that a team of oncologists from Tata Memorial Centre is visiting Guwahati tomorrow to make a study of the problem there and to assess the provisional input. They are prepar-